6. A National Food for Work Programme has been launched in 150 identified most backward districts of the country w.e.f. November 2004, with the objective to provide additional resources for generation of supplementary wage employment and providing food-security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts. The Programme will focus on water conservation, drought-proofing and land development as a first priority.

7. Additional funds on account of additional cess on Diesel have become available from 2005-2006. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have approved loans to assist the PMGSY programme. Action has also been initiated to explore additional sources of funding in consultation with Planning Commission and Finance Ministry.

Construction of homes in rural and semi-rural areas

*316. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes that are under implementation for the construction of homes in the rural and semi-rural areas;

(b) the cost involved in the construction of each unit; and

(c) the total allocation made for this and the details of utilisation made?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is implemented in the rural areas of all the States/Union Territories except Delhi and Chandigarh. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) rural households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and non-Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe BPL families. Minimum 60% of the funds are to be allotted to SCs/STs BPL families and upto 40% for other BPL families. Since 1999-2000, upgradation of kutcha house is also allowed under the IAY. The cost of the Scheme is shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25

(b) The ceiling on construction assistance under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) has been enhanced from Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 25,000/- per unit for the plain areas and from Rs. 22,000/- to Rs. 27,500/- for the hilly/difficult areas with effect from 1.4.2004. The upper limit in respect of upgradation of unserviceable kutcha house has also been increased from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 12,500/- for all areas.

(c) During the current financial year 2004-2005, against the total Central allocation of Rs. 2900 crore, an amount of Rs. 2691 crores have been released under the IAY (*upto 15th March* 2005).

Unspent money of rural electrification

*317. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what parameters are used to treat a village as electrified;

(b) how many villages are yet to be electrified in different States and Union Territories;

(c) the percentage of achievement over the targets in respect of rural electrification in the years 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005;

(d) the State-wise break-up of the amount of money remaining unspent in respect of rural electrification; and

(e) the steps to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) (a) A village would be declared as electrified from the year 2004-2005 onwards, if

(i) Basic infrastructure such as Distribution Transformer and Distribution lines are provided in the inhabited locality as well as the Dalit Basti/hamlet where it exists. (For electrification through Non-Conventional Energy Sources a Distribution Transformer may not be necessary).

(ii) Electricity is provided to public places like Schools, Panchayat Office, Health Centres, Dispensaries, Community centres etc. and

(iii) The number of households electrified should be at least 10% of the total number of households in the village.

(b) The status of village electrification in the various States as on 31.3.2004 is given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) A State-wise details of village electrification during 2002-2003 onwards is given in enclosed Statement-II (*See* below).